Approved For Release 2003/09/03: CIA-RDP80-00809A000700220280-2

CLASSIFICATION RESTAICTED CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY 25X1 25X1 25X1 COUNTRY Greece SUBJECT : Sociological - Public health, hospitals, statistics HOW DATE DIST. 6 May 1953 **PUBLISHED** Daily newspaper WHERE **PUBLISHED** Athens NO. OF PAGES DATE **PUBLISHED** 10 - 13 Feb 1953 SUPPLEMENT TO LANGUAGE Greek REPORT NO. THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 25X1

STATISTICS ON HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN GREECE

Summary: On 10 - 13 February 1953, Ethnos published three articles by G. Karagiorgas, entitled, "Public Health Problem," giving statistics on hospitals, hospital facilities, clinics, and medical personnel in Greece. Following is a summary of the three articles.

Hospitals

Throughout Greece, there are a total of 161 / sic / hospitals with a total of 21,108 beds. The hospitals can be classified as follows:

General hospitals 136
Tuberculosis sanatoria 6
Psychiatric sanatoria 9

The following are included in the general-hospital classification:

General medical hospitals 109
Maternity hospitals 7
Pediatric hospitals 5
Hospitals 6
Cancer detection hospitals 1
Venereal and dermatology hospitals 5
Eye hospitals 3
Leprosaria 3

Of the above total of 161 / sic / hospitals, 19 are temporarily state-owned, 75 are permanently state-owned (Legal Entities of Public Law), 25 are public, and 43 are Legal Entities of Private Law.

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The following data further describe these hospitals:

Buildings

Buildings erected for hospitals Buildings erected for other purposes Private homes used as hospitals Total	86 32 43 161
Condition of Buildings	101
Good	
Average	Oli
Unacceptable, poor	2.7
Total	33
1004.	9!+ 33 3 ¹ + 161
Laundry Facilities	101
Hospitals with hand laundries	
Hospitals with machine laundries	111
Hospitals without laundries	24
Total	26
	161
Kitchen Facilities	
Hospitale with ordinary	
Hospitals with ordinary kitchens	1.38
Hospitals with modern kitchens Hospitals without kitchens	19
TTTP TO WILLIAM KITCHANG DAILING.	

Hospitals without kitchens. Patients must receive their food from the outside

Water Facilities

Total

Hospitals with city water installations	
Hospitals supplied by wells Hospitals supplied by springs Hospitals supplied by cisterns Hospitals supplied by rivers Total	121 19 14 6 1 161 /sic7
	[9]

Heating Facilities

Hospitals with central heating Hospitals using wood, coal, and oil burners	55
Hospitals using braziers Hospitals without any heating facilities Hospitals with electric heating installations	78 11 16
Total	1 161

Toilet Facilities

There are a total of 2,743 toilets in the 161 hospitals. Of these, 1,652 are the seat type and 1,091 are the squat type.

- 2 -

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Personnel Accommodations	Rooms	Beds
For the professional personnel	272	42 <u>1</u>
For the remaining personnel	466	1,526
For nurses	893	2,823
Total	1,631	4,770

Refrigeration Facilities

The 161 hospitals have 11 electric refrigeration rooms, 55 electric refrigerators, 56 oil-burning refrigerators, and 152 iceboxes of various sizes.

X-Ray Equipment

The 161 hospitals have 111 X-ray machines, of which 100 are in operation; 16 Roentgen apparatus (of which two are useless); and two X-ray therapy machines.

Laboratories

A total of 157 hospitals have pharmacies and microbiological laboratories. According to the latest statistics, a total of 424,882 various laboratory tests (urinalysis, blood and sputum tests, etc.) were taken during a year's period.

It is to be noted that 77 percent of the laboratory tests took place in Attica and only 23 percent, in the other provinces.

Of the l6l hospitals, only 137 have directors. Of these, 96 are doctors and 41 are administrative officials. Almost all the doctors lack training in hospital management.

As has been ascertained, these hospitals serve one seventh of Greece's population annually.

Hospital Beds

Of the 21,108 hospital beds, only 11,557 are considered acceptable, and 9,551 are considered nonacceptable because they are in violation of a Royal Decree which stipulates that the minimum space per bed should be $7\frac{1}{2}$ square meters. On the basis of official statistics, it was agreed that a total of 38,873 beds is necessary to take care of all types of patients throughout the country. The present number of beds covers only 29.7 percent of the needs.

The percentage of the beds given free to indigent patients amounts to 77.6 percent of the total number of 21,108 hospital beds.

The percentage of private beds given to those able to pay amounts to 21.9

Of the 91 general hospitals, only 49 have delivery rooms and gynecologic operating rooms. Of these, 42.3 percent are well equipped, 25.5 percent are average, and 32.3 percent are badly equipped (a total of 100.1 percent).

Taking five beds for every 1,000 inhabitants as a basis, the total beds for Greece should amount to about 40,000, specifically 38,873. If the existing number of 11,557 suitable beds is subtracted, more specifically 11,236 (subtract 321 beds of the leprosaria), there remain 27,637 sic/ beds to be acquired.

After long study and research on the matter, medical officials have come to the conclusion that Macedonia has the need for the greater amount of beds, Peloponnesus following.

- 3 -

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As already mentioned, the ideal number of beds would be 38,873. Subtracting the 11,236 good beds available, we have 27,637 beds, which should be divided as follows among the 12 geographic regions of Greece:

Attica Peloponnesus	·546
Central Greece	5,466
Thessaly	3,688 2,924
Epirus	1,536
Macedonia	
Thrace	6,305
Crete	2,615
Ionian Islands	1,845
Cyclades	. 772
Dodecanese	607
Aegean Islands	197
Total	1,136
	27,637

The present 21,108 beds available are used in the following capacities:

Pathological Surgical Obstetrical Eye, nose, and throat Infant	4,080 2,959 1,365 470 249
Pediatric	
Orthopedic	513
Dermatological-venereal	102 606
Urological	
Neurological	146
Communicable diseases	111
Miscellaneous diseases	660
Bone-joint tuberculosis	259
Cancer	16
Tuberculosis	82
Psychiatric	5,271
Leprosy	2,934
Total	763
TOTAL	21,108 <u>[</u> 31 <u>c</u>]

Clinics

It is estimated that every year, 8-10 percent of the population visits the clinics established by various institutions. There are altogether 433 rooms available in these clinics, of which 373 rooms are located within hospital buildings and 60, outside the hospitals. There is great need for having more clinics built throughout Greece, especially in the provinces of Arta, Preveza, Kavalla, and Xanthi. Moreover, health stations must be built at Argolis, Arkadia, Corfu, Drama, Euboea, Evritania, Kastoria, Lakonia, Pellis, Imatheia, Florina, and Canea.

Personnel

At present, there are 1,760 doctors serving in the 161 hospitals. There are 505 positions vacant. The following table shows the classification of doctors needed to fill these vacant positions.

- 4 -

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Tuberculosis specialists Surgeons	95 75
Pathologists	57
Microbiologists	48
Neuologists	47
X-ray technicians	41
Gynecologists	39
Oculists	5f
Nose, ear, and throat	
specialists	23
Dermatologists for venereal	-5
diseases	21
Pediatricians	10
Dentists	7
Orthopedists	i.
Other specialists	14
Total	505

These doctors are required in the following provinces:

Attica Thessaly Arkadia Ahaia Messinia Cyclades Imatheia Kilkis Ioannina Total	224 (of whom 68 should be TB specialists) 59 (of whom 15 should be surgeons) 18 (all should be TB specialists) 18 (of whom 4 should be X-ray technicians) 13 (all should be surgeons) 9 9 9 8 367
Remaining provinces	138
Grand total	505

There is also a need for 5,223 more nurses to serve in the hospitals.

A large number of the 161 hospitals lack surgeons. Of the 161 hospitals, 53.6 percent are well staffed with surgeons, 30 percent are average, and 16.4 percent are badly staffed.

There are 96 microbiologists and 135 pharmacists in the 161 hospitals. Of the 96 microbiologists, 68 serve in the Attica area.

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